



4220 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22302  
P: (703) 379-2480  
F: (703) 379-7563  
[www.agiweb.org](http://www.agiweb.org)  
[@AGI\\_Updates](https://twitter.com/AGI_Updates)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 22, 2013

Contact: Heather Houlton  
[hrh@agiweb.org](mailto:hrh@agiweb.org)

## Will High-Scoring SAT Students Pursue a Career in the Geosciences?

Alexandria, VA – The American Geosciences Institute's Workforce Program was able to analyze data on 18,000 precollege students who indicated an inclination towards a major in the physical sciences, and scored well on the SAT in 2012 and in 2013. These data are broken down further to identify race, gender, and intended STEM majors by state. Geoscience Currents #74 shows that this population is predominantly white, and the distribution of underrepresented minority test takers were typically in the single digits.

California was dominant in the number of students interested in pursuing a STEM career. The data also shows a sharp increase in the number of undecided students between 2012 and 2013, with selected other majors like Aerospace Engineering, Computer Science and Marine Science showing significant increases between 2012 and 2013.

Students conveying potential major choice could choose from all STEM and non-STEM majors. Two more common STEM majors included the "Environmental Sciences/Environmental Health Sciences" and "Marine Biology, and Biological Oceanography," which AGI's Workforce Program considers to be proxies of possible interest in geoscience careers. Between 2012 and 2013, those fields showed increased interest by graduating high school students.

For more information and to download a copy of this Geoscience Currents, go to:  
<http://www.agiweb.org/workforce/currents>.

###

The American Geosciences Institute is a nonprofit federation of geoscientific and professional associations that represents more than 250,000 geologists, geophysicists and other earth scientists. Founded in 1948, AGI provides information services to geoscientists, serves as a voice of shared interests in the profession, plays a major role in strengthening geosciences education, and strives to increase public awareness of the vital role geosciences play in society's use of resources, resiliency to natural hazards, and interaction with the environment.